

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

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FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The American Fisheries Advisory Committee, which advises the Secretary of the Interior on general fishery matters, has recommended that greater emphasis be placed on programs of research and management of fishery resources, improving product quality, and development of new fishery products.

The Committee's suggestion was one of six major recommendations made at a three day meeting held recently in Danvers, Massachusetts, at which emphasis was placed on the commercial fisheries of New England.

The advisory group also suggested that a training program be started for commercial fishermen as a means of encouraging young people to enter the industry.

Another recommendation urged continuation of efforts to resolve differences between sport fishing and commercial fishing interests in both fresh water and salt water fisheries resources. The Committee pointed out that both groups face common problems, and solutions will require concerted efforts by both.

In other actions, the Committee:

--Endorsed provisions of the Fishing Fleet Improvement Act which calls for new fishing vessels to be of advanced design, and that economic injury to existing fleets be avoided insofar as possible.

--Recommended that the fishing industry and the Government take full advantage of the Federal fisheries legislation enacted in the 88th Congress.

--Endorsed the new Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act as a means of providing maximum opportunities for further development of commercial fisheries at State levels.

Staff members from Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries discussed programs of the North Atlantic Region. Highlights included Bureau research on quality of fresh and frozen fish; new and more efficient fishing vessels and gear; and biological and oceanographic programs seeking improved knowledge of fisheries resources.

Other matters discussed included the problem of heavy fishing pressure by foreign fleets off the New England coast; the recently passed Fishing Fleet Improvement Act; and economic factors affecting the New England fishing industry.

The Advisory Committee visited the new Marine Products Irradiator at Gloucester, Mass. This facility, constructed by the Atomic Energy Commission, will be operated by Bureau of Commercial Fisheries personnel. It is the first food irradiation plant in the world devoted entirely to fishery products. Members of the Committee also toured major fish processing plants in the Gloucester area.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held in Washington, D. C. during the spring of 1965.

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